

**Board of Supervisors  
Policy  
Citizen Petition Street Light Program  
Fairfax County, Virginia  
August 1999**

**A. General Conditions**

1. Contingent upon the availability of County funds for the installation of new street lights, there will be no direct cost to the property owners for the installation of the requested streetlights unless the petitioners request mercury vapor streetlights as described in Section G.2.
2. The County will provide for all costs associated with the operation and maintenance of eligible streetlights.
3. Fairfax County shall determine the location of all requested streetlights required to properly illuminate the petitioned area. In order to adhere to adopted illumination engineering standards and criteria, and to conform with the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) standards, the number and location of streetlights required to properly light a given area will require a specific number of street lights installed at a uniform horizontal spacing. For a typical residential street, the required distance between proposed streetlights is normally 150 to 200 feet apart for cobra head fixtures and 160 feet apart for colonial style fixtures.
4. The petitioners have the option of reviewing the final street light layout prepared by the Department of Public Works prior to the submission of the installation order to the electric utility company. A special notation is included on the Standard Petition Form for the petitioner to check. The special notation on the Standard Petition Form must be checked in order to initiate this option to review the proposed streetlight layout. It should be noted that the installation of the proposed street lights will be placed on hold during the time required for the citizens to complete this review process, and for the Department of Public Works to address any citizen comments.
5. The utility company may need an easement from a property owner(s) for underground wires to electrify the proposed streetlights. These easements must be granted at no cost to the electric utility company.
6. The installation of all streetlights is governed by the Board of Supervisors adopted policy, terms, and conditions of the appropriate contract with the electric utility company, and the VDOT permit obtained by the electric utility company.

## **B. Special Street Light Programs**

### **1. Communities Contributing Funds for Streetlights**

If County funds are not available for the installation of street lights, communities have the option of providing the necessary funds for the installation of new street lights in accordance with the terms and conditions stipulated in the General Procedures and Stipulations for Communities Contributing Funds for Streetlights as approved by the Board of Supervisors on February 24, 1997 (contact the Street Light Engineering Team at 324-5800 if additional information is required).

### **2. Upgrading Existing Streetlights**

Older existing street lights that do not meet current lighting standards can be upgraded to current lighting standards by the County, contingent upon available funds, if requested by the citizens. The upgrading of existing streetlights shall conform to the Policy and Procedures Governing Requests to Upgrade Existing Street Lights as adopted by the Board of Supervisors on June 26, 1995 (contact the Street Light Engineering Team at 324-5800 if additional information is required).

### **3. *Non-Standard Street Lights Installed by Communities, Developers, or Other Groups Requesting Acceptance by the County for Operation and Maintenance***

**This provision is currently pending consideration by the Board of Supervisors. It will be added to this policy if approved by the Board of Supervisors.**

## **C Eligibility Requirements**

1. Only public roadways, which are situated in a public dedicated right-of-way and currently maintained by either the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) or the County, are eligible for streetlights.
2. A Standard Petition Form (Enclosure I) signed by a majority of the residents whose property abuts the section of road right-of-way requesting street lights must be submitted to the County.
3. The area for which street lights are requested must meet current approved eligibility requirements, i.e., crime deterrence or hazardous driving conditions as determined by the Fairfax County Police Department (FCPD).

## **D. Lighting Fixtures**

1. The available lighting fixtures shall consist of the standard cobra head (Enclosure II and III) or the colonial style fixture (Enclosure IV).
2. The colonial style fixture, intended for use primarily in residential areas, must meet all of the following criteria:
  - a. Curb and gutter street section
  - b. Areas with underground electrical distribution
  - c. Streets with traffic usage, as determined by VDOT, less than 3,000 vehicles per day

## **E. Pole Type and Electrical Service for Street Lights**

Electrical Distribution in Area Requesting Streetlights	Proposed Street Lights		
	Fixture	Pole Type	Electrical Service
Underground	Cobra	Concrete	Underground
	Colonial	Fiberglass	Underground
Overhead	Cobra	Wood	Overhead

## **F. Pole Placement Location**

Cobra Head: On non-curb and gutter street sections, poles are normally a minimum of ten feet from the edge of pavement and behind the ditch line. On curb and gutter streets, poles will be located approximately 9.5 feet from the face of curb or immediately behind the sidewalk (minimum 2-foot separation).

Colonial: Poles to be located 2-feet behind the face of curb or in the utility strip.

## **G. Light Source**

1. The light source for new streetlights installed at County cost shall be High Pressure Sodium (HPS) vapor, which emits a yellow-orange colored light. At the option of the County, a mercury vapor light source which emits a blue-green colored light may be used in areas with existing mercury vapor streetlights in order to avoid the mixing of two different light sources.

2. New mercury vapor streetlights can be installed as an option to HPS lights contingent upon the following payments being provided to the County:
  - a. Payment for Increased Operating and Maintenance Cost: Mercury vapor streetlights are more expensive to operate due to their high-energy consumption and shorter bulb life. Therefore, the County requires a lump sum payment for the increased cost of operating and maintaining these lights during their 20-year useful life. Based on the County's street lighting contract with the utility company, the Department of Public Works will determine the amount of the required payment. For each size of mercury vapor streetlight specified, the payment will be determined by subtracting the current monthly operation and maintenance rates for an approximately equivalent lumen size HPS street light from such cost for the mercury vapor streetlight, then multiplying the difference by 12 and by 20, and multiplying that product by the number of proposed mercury vapor streetlights.
  - b. Payment for Future Mercury Vapor Streetlight Conversion Cost: Based on the County's supplemental agreement with Virginia Power, a payment shall be provided for each mercury vapor street light to be installed in order to address the economic incentives provided to municipalities by Virginia Power for the conversion of a mercury vapor streetlight to a HPS street light source. This payment shall be determined based on the rate schedule contained in Schedule D of the County's supplemental agreement with Virginia Power. This provision is not required for new mercury vapor streetlights installed in the Northern Virginia Electric Cooperative service area of Fairfax County.

The above one-time, non-refundable cash payments shall be made to the County before the utility company is authorized by the County to proceed with the street light installation(s).

## **H. Lighting Levels**

The illumination levels provided by the proposed streetlights shall conform to Section 7-1000, Street Lighting, contained in the current edition of the Fairfax County Public Facilities Manual.

TO: County of Fairfax  
Department of Public Works and Environmental Services  
Planning and Design Division  
12000 Government Center Parkway, Suite 449  
Fairfax, Virginia 22035-0052

The petition, with \_\_\_\_\_ attached signature sheets and a description of improvements desired, is forwarded for Fairfax County's consideration.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

NEED FOR IMPROVEMENT: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

LOCATION: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Type of Street Lights Requested (check one)

Cobra Head: \_\_\_\_\_

Colonial: \_\_\_\_\_ (must meet all of the following criteria: curb and gutter streets, underground electrical distribution and streets with traffic usage of less than 3,000 vehicles per day).

SIGNATURES TOTAL: \_\_\_\_\_

They are certified as residents of the area who will benefit by this project. I attest that the attached petitioners have seen the sketch of the Fairfax County standard cobra head roadway lighting fixture and standard colonial style fixture that is available for installation.

Signature of Association-President, Chairman or Head of Petition Committee

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name (please print)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_; Virginia, ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_; Phone No. \_\_\_\_\_

I desire to review the proposed street light layout prior to the County submitting the installation order to the utility company.

Yes: \_\_\_\_\_ No: \_\_\_\_\_

See attached information summary for possible project delays if “Yes” is check

I desire the installation of mercury vapor streetlights as an option to high-pressure sodium vapor streetlights and understand that there will be a cost involved:

Yes: \_\_\_\_\_ No: \_\_\_\_\_

See attached information summary (Item G.2) for the costs that I will responsible for if the option of using mercury vapor streetlights is selected.

I HEREBY RESPECTFULLY PETITION FAIRFAX COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS TO PROVIDE STREETLIGHTS IN OUR AREA. I CERTIFY THAT I HAVE SEEN THE SKETCHES OF THE FAIRFAX COUNTY STANDARD COBRA HEAD ROADWAY LIGHTING FIXTURE AND THE STANDARD COLONIAL STYLE FIXTURE AND UNDERSTAND THE TYPE OF STREET LIGHT BEING REQUESTED BY THIS PETITION. I UNDERSTAND THAT THE INFORMATION PROVIDED BELOW MAY BE SHARED WITH THE UTILITY COMPANY SERVING THE AREA TO AID IN THE PLANNING AND DESIGN OF THE REQUESTED STREET LIGHTS.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature Sheet Number \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_

**(FILL OUT A SEPARTE SIGNATURE SHEET FOR EACH STREET BEING PETITIONED)**

Street: \_\_\_\_\_, City: \_\_\_\_\_

**NOTE TO PROPERTY OWNERS:** If necessary, would you grant easements to the utility company for the installation of the requested streetlights and related electrical cables?

Resident Name	House Number	Telephone No.	Yes/No to Note
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